

REGULAR WEEKLY SESSION----ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL

July 3, 2006

9:00 a.m.

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Monday, July 3, 2006, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and pursuant to Resolution No. 37109-070505 adopted by the Council on Tuesday, July 5, 2005.

PRESENT: Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----1.

ABSENT: Council Members Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, Gwen W. Mason, David B. Trinkle, Brian J. Wishneff-----6.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess until 10:00 a.m., in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke.

The Council meeting reconvened at 10:00 a.m., in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor Harris presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members Alfred T. Dowe Jr., (arrived late), Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, Gwen W. Mason, David B. Trinkle, and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----6.

ABSENT: Council Member Brian J. Wishneff-----1.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

COMMITTEES-CITY COUNCIL: A communication from Mayor C. Nelson Harris requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council, pursuant to §2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Council Member Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the Mayor to convene in Closed Meeting as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lea and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Fitzpatrick, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris-----5.

NAYS: None -----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.) (Council Member Dowe was not present when the vote was recorded.)

CITY COUNCIL: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss acquisition of real property for a public purpose, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City of Roanoke, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Council Member Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager to convene in Closed Meeting as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lea and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Fitzpatrick, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris-----5.

NAYS: None -----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.) (Council Member Dowe was not present when the vote was recorded.)

CITY COUNCIL: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss acquisition of real property for a public purpose, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City of Roanoke, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Vice-Mayor Trinkle moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager to convene in Closed Meeting as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Fitzpatrick, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris-----5.

NAYS: None -----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.) (Council Member Dowe was not present when the vote was recorded.)

Council Member Dowe entered the meeting.

ITEMS LISTED ON THE 2:00 P. M. COUNCIL DOCKET REQUIRING DISCUSSION/CLARIFICATION AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE 2:00 P. M. AGENDA: NONE.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL: NONE.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason E. Bingham, Mae G. Huff, William H. Lindsey, Courtney A. Penn, and Alvin L. Nash.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Bernard J. Godek, Assistant Superintendent for Management.

PATRICK HENRY HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT:

SCHOOLS: William H. Lindsey, Member, Roanoke City School Board, advised that Mike Farris and Doug Childress of J. M. Turner and Company were present for questions following the presentation. He reviewed the following information:

New Patrick Henry High School - Project Budget Update**Project Costs to Date:**

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Approved Funding | \$ 48,125,000.00 |
| Phase I Budget | \$ 26,113,129.00 |
| Total Cost Phase I | \$ 27,913,447.00 |
| Phase I Cost vs Phase I Budget | (\$ 1,800,318.00) |
| Phase II Budget | \$ 22,011,871.00 |
| Available Funding Phase II | \$ 20,211,552.00 |
| Phase II Bids Awarded | \$ 19,619,347.00 |
| Remaining Budget Phase II | \$ 592,205.00 |
| Anticipated Cost to Complete Phase II | \$ 6,618,021.00 |
| Funds Needed to Complete Phase II | \$ 6,025,816.00 |

Increased Project Cost Factors:**Commercial Construction Industry Cost Increases:**

59 per cent increase in fuel costs
 25 per cent increase in PVC pipe
 50 per cent increase in brick, mortar, and masonry block
 44 per cent increase in steel (large beams, reinforcing bars, framing, conduits, piping, ductwork, electrical fixtures)
 200 per cent increase in copper
 100 per cent increase in sheet metal
 50 per cent increase in asphalt
 High demand for limited skilled labor force
 Overhead cost increases to compensate for insurance premium inflation

Project Impact - \$4.2 Million

Unbudgeted Costs Associated With Phases I and II:

Phase I

Modular set up and tear down

Construction and tear down of decking/walkways for modular campus

Temporary bus drop off (Clara Black)

Utility connect/disconnect/reconnect costs (electric, water, sewer, gas, telephone, cable, data, alarms)

Phase II controls

New security system

Appliances/furniture/stage equipment

Moving services (modular campus to Phase I and McQuilken/modular campus to Phase I, Gibboney, and Phase II)

Site security/protective fencing/traffic cones/temporary parking lot lighting

Special education greenhouse

Building permits and bonds

Hall clocks/building signage/door locks

Scoreboards for main gymnasium

Project Impact - \$1.4 Million

Approved Change Orders for Phase I and Phase II:

Trenching/sewer line replacement/repaving of alleyway adjacent to Brandon Road

Deck fireproofing and other code requirements

Storm damage (July 2005)

Owner changes

Project Impact - \$500,000.00

Public Schools Facilities Cost Data - Virginia 2004-05:

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Patrick Henry H.S. | Roanoke City | 214,455 sq.ft. | \$112.21/sq.ft. |
| James Monroe H.S. | Fredericksburg | 193,000 sq.ft. | \$161.06/sq.ft. |
| Skyline H.S. | Warren | 226,147 sq.ft. | \$186.75/sq.ft. |
| T. C. Williams | Alexandria | 461,147 sq.ft. | \$192.07/sq.ft. |
| Henderson M.S. | Falls Church | 128,788 sq.ft. | \$152.79/sq.ft. |
| Fredericksburg Upper | Fredericksburg | 97,760 sq.ft. | \$126.37/sq.ft. |
| Grassfield Area | Chesapeake | 347,549 sq.ft. | \$157.60/sq.ft. |

New William Fleming H.S. (2007-09)

Control Project Increases for New William Fleming High School:

Update budget based on construction industry trends - \$45 Million?
 Simpler project - no modular campus required - occupy old while building new
 Incorporate lessons learned from new Patrick Henry High School
 Eliminate unbudgeted tasks/costs
 Expand construction team (IT, Security, CTE, P.E., Special Ed).
 Reduce owner change orders
 Alternative funding sources
 Value engineering

Mr. Lindsey advised that Patrick Henry High School construction will provide more value for the dollar compared to other school projects throughout the State, the School Board will not in any way shortchange the William Fleming project, and is in the position of gaining certain experiences from the Patrick Henry High School project that can be carried over to the William Fleming High School project.

Mayor Harris stated that there are two questions before the Council relative to the project: (1) Who is responsible for payment of the additional \$6 million, and will the additional monies be funded; and (2) Depending on how the question is answered, what is the impact on funding with regard to other City capital projects.

Council Member Dowe inquired about costs associated with the temporary bus drop off at Clara Black Hall. He was advised that the cost was not considered when the project was proposed because alternative funding was under consideration at the time that would include paving, parking and signage. Mr. Dowe further inquired about the special education greenhouse and was advised that the greenhouse is used by special education students as part of their curriculum and was an oversight in the process.

Council Member Dowe inquired as to why a new security system was not included in the budget and was advised that the intent was to keep the cost of the project as low as possible, and alternative funding sources were anticipated to be used, such as debt reserve, CMERP funds or grant funds, but such funds were found not to be available. Mr. Dowe stated that private organizations may be interested in donating score boards.

Council Member Lea expressed concern with regard to the \$6 million over run, which will be difficult to explain to taxpayers.

Vice-Mayor Trinkle stated that the School Board was aware of some of the cost over runs and items that were not in the original budget. He inquired if the security system and telephone system will be included in the William Fleming High School Project; whereupon, Mr. Godek advised that they will be included in the project budget; some of the numbers originally assigned to each high school were simply numbers that were allocated based upon debt service, and the budget was formulated based on drawings that were developed.

Mr. Godek stated that they worked closely with the School Board and City Council to develop the project, and when broadly outlining the project, it was noted that approximately \$92 million in debt service funds would be available for construction of the two high schools: \$48 million was allocated to the Patrick Henry High School project and \$44 million was allocated to the William Fleming High School project, which required less work.

Vice-Mayor Trinkle referred to the daily increase in construction costs and whether there would be any rationale for completing the William Fleming High School stadium at an earlier date. He was advised that anything constructed now or within the next year would be less expensive than anything that will be constructed three years from now.

Council Member Fitzpatrick stated that project cost over runs were no surprise, and numerous items on the list should not have been brought to the Council, but should have been fixed internally by the School Board. He further stated that he and School Trustee Bingham were appointed to a committee to review long term funding for the schools and advised that it is critical for the credibility factor to continue to be strong and that a more equitable method of addressing capital and operational funding for the schools be developed, resulting in a better working relationship. He suggested that the School Board review the concept of combining certain functions in order to save taxpayers' money in the future.

In response, Mr. Lindsey stated that the modular situation was specifically an effort to save money, but was most likely a failed effort because the intention was to address the issue internally in order to save construction costs, however, it turned out to be less of a practicality than anticipated. He further stated that policies will be established to enable future projects to run more smoothly.

Council Member Mason concurred in Council Member Fitzpatrick's comments. She advised that she did not want to short-change the William Fleming High School project, and referred to the enigmatic notion of counting on alternative funding sources of grants and debt reserve, and asked for a clarification with regard to funding.

Mr. Godek stated that some of the funds that were being counted on by the School Administration were not limited strictly to grants and debt reserve, but included the use of money from the General Fund to pay for certain items, however, it was discovered that the funds were not in the General Fund for use in capital projects, and competing priorities of need throughout the school system prohibited the use of a State technology grant. He added that there was a tendency to use debt reserve to pay for some items, but other priorities within the school division prohibited the use of debt reserve. He agreed with Council Member Fitzpatrick that the costs should have been identified and included in the project funding budget, and if alternative funding was found, the budget could have been reduced by that amount.

Council Member Dowe suggested that the School Board go back to the drawing board and attempt to identify items that could be funded by the private sector which would offer an opportunity to expand existing partnerships in the community.

The City Manager stated that she hoped the matter would be referred to the City Manager and the Director of Finance for recommendation to Council. She further stated that it is important to ground the Council and the School Board in terms of the planning that has taken place, and to particularly explain the City's debt service policy, limitations, and actions that Council will need to consider with regard to other capital projects. She added that such information is critical, both for the current discussion about Patrick Henry High School and more importantly for the William Fleming High School budget, because the City needs to consider budgeting for future capital improvements funding.

The City Manager called on Sherman Stovall, Director of Management and Budget, for the following overview:

Capital Project Planning Overview Focus:

- Planning Background
- Planned Debt Issuance
- Projects Requiring Additional Funding
- Debt Policies
- Debt Capacity
- *Recommended Strategy*

Background:March 2000 Financial Planning

- Council began planning for many of the current capital projects, including discussing renovation of the first of two high schools
- Patrick Henry High School Cost - \$35 million
City of Roanoke Share - \$17.5 million
- City agreed to begin adding \$570,000.00 in debt service funding on an annual basis to build debt service capacity

March 2001 Financial Planning

- Patrick Henry High School Cost - \$38 million
City of Roanoke Share - \$19 million
- William Fleming High School Cost - \$40 million
City of Roanoke Share - \$20 million

Fiscal Year 2003-2004

- Roanoke City Schools requested and City Council agreed to an increase of \$13.5 million in debt issuance for the high school projects
- Patrick Henry High School Cost - \$46.75 million
City of Roanoke Share - \$19 million
- William Fleming High School Cost - \$44.75 million
City of Roanoke Share - \$20 million
- Roanoke City Schools assumed responsibility for debt service on the planned additional debt issuance

Current Status

- Patrick Henry High School Cost - \$48.125 million
Addition of \$1.375 million of School Capital Project Reserve Funds
City of Roanoke Share - \$19 million
- William Fleming High School Cost - \$45.375 million
Addition of \$.625 million of School Capital Project Reserve Funds
City of Roanoke Share - \$20 million
- Request for additional \$6.1 million for Patrick Henry High School

Planned Future Bond Issues (City)

| | FY 08 | FY 10 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Fire-EMS Facilities | \$ 3.81 M | --- |
| Roanoke River Flood Reduction | \$ 4.52 M | --- |
| William Fleming High School | \$ 20.0 M | --- |
| Downtown West Parking Garage | \$ 2.6 M | --- |
| Curb, Gutter, Sidewalks, Bridges | \$ 5.0 M | --- |
| Multi-Purpose Recreation Center | --- | \$6.71 M |
| Total | \$35.93 M | \$6.71 M |

Mr. Stovall stated that when Council agreed to increase the debt issuance for Patrick Henry High School in 2004, the planned issuance was moved out for the Fire/EMS facilities project and the multi-purpose recreation center; in addition, current status is that the City will have to be out of Fire Station No. 10 at the Airport within the next few years, which will not allow the flexibility to move out the planned issuance for Fire/EMS facilities. He further stated that the City Administration is not prepared to present Council with a new strategy in response to the request for additional funding.

The City Manager stated that she would like to cover other projects in terms of their ability to be considered, specifically, the Flood Reduction Project commitment to the U. S. Corps of Engineers in terms of the City's match to the project; the Downtown West Parking Garage project allocation which is funded through the Parking Enterprise Fund and does not impact the City on the debt policy side because it is separated out and does not help the City in its approach to the problem of additional money that is needed by the School Board. She added that the Administration recently received Council's authorization to allocate \$5 million for curb, gutter, sidewalks and bridges as a result of the cigarette tax increase, which may be an area that could be considered, but the City would be sacrificing certain infrastructure needs in order to create the additional funding that is requested by the School Board. She stated that it was hoped that the multi-purpose recreation center would be funded sooner than fiscal year 2010, inasmuch the City is a candidate finalist for a CROP Grant to create a multi-purpose center, and if so, the City will have to accelerate the funding as a partial match, all of which has created certain tension when reviewing the School Board's request, and would cause the City to eliminate, delay or reduce the allocation to one of the above referenced projects.

Planned Future Bond Issues/Debt (Schools)

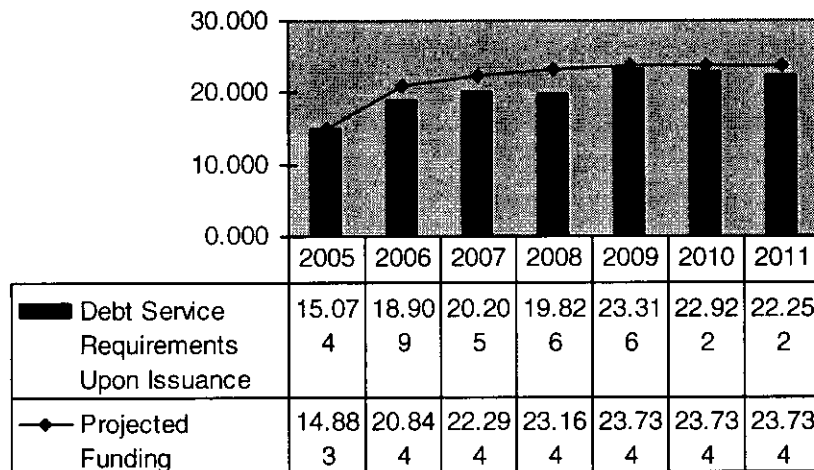
| | FY 07 | FY 08 | FY 09 |
|---|-----------|----------|----------|
| Patrick Henry (Literary Loan/VPSA) | \$ 7.50 M | --- | --- |
| Fallon Park/Westside (Literary Loan/VPSA) | \$ 5.01 M | --- | --- |
| Monterey (Literary Loan/VPSA) | \$ 2.00 M | --- | --- |
| William Fleming (VPSA/GO/Literary Loan) | --- | \$16.5 M | \$ 7.5 M |
| Total | \$14.51 M | \$16.5 M | \$ 7.5 M |

Projects Requiring Additional Funds:

| | | |
|--|---|----------|
| • Roanoke Comprehensive Library Study | - | \$ 7.5 M |
| • Police Academy | - | \$ 5.3 M |
| • Public Works Service Center Improvements | - | \$ 4.2 M |
| • Roanoke Center for Industry/Technology | - | \$ 1.2 M |
| • Neighborhood Storm Drain | - | \$57.2 M |
| • Bridge Renovation Program | - | \$ 5.3 M |
| • Curb, Gutter, Sidewalk Program | - | \$ 6.2 M |
| • Streetscape Project Improvements | - | \$ 8.7 M |
| • Market District Project | - | \$ 4.6 M |
| • Radio System Upgrade (Future Project) | - | \$10.6 M |
| • Courthouse Expansion (Future Project) | - | TBD |

The Director of Finance stated that the City has a policy of annually setting aside or dedicating \$570,000.00 to apply toward debt service which is anticipated to continue until issuances have “peaked”. He referred to a chart demonstrating the funding set aside in given years exceeds the amount of debt service needed, which has served the City well since it provides cash in the periods before it is actually needed, such as up to 2009, when the City will pay the first debt service on the next large bond issue in 2008, and will allow cash funding for smaller projects and maintenance of capital assets without additional funding, all of which represents good financial planning and favorably affects the City’s bond rating. He further stated that the over-all debt policy was developed in 1999 because of the City’s aggressive capital campaign, the debt policy was one of many financial policies of the City, and the items discussed were only one small piece of the City’s debt policy, which has been faithfully adhered to over the past. He explained that the first part of the self-imposed debt policy provides that the tax supported general obligation, the debt service, as opposed to the amount of debt outstanding, will not exceed ten per cent of general fund expenditures; and the next policy of net bonded debt, which is the total debt outstanding, would not exceed five per cent of the assessed value of real estate; and those two criteria will take the City to a level of debt that is considered “moderate” as the City approaches the next issuance. He noted that the State Code and the City Charter establishes the maximum debt limit at ten per cent of real estate value, the City set a self-imposed limit of five per cent because it was felt that the ten per cent limit was highly impractical and could not be afforded by the City. He further stated that most of the debt issued was 20-year debt, and is structured so that an even reduction will occur throughout the life of the debt. He noted that the City’s debt capacity will start to grow in the years 2010 and 2011, and once the City gets past the high school projects, it is anticipated that the magnitude of debt will gradually decline. He reviewed the following information:

Future General Fund Debt Service Requirements and Projected Funding Available for Debt Service

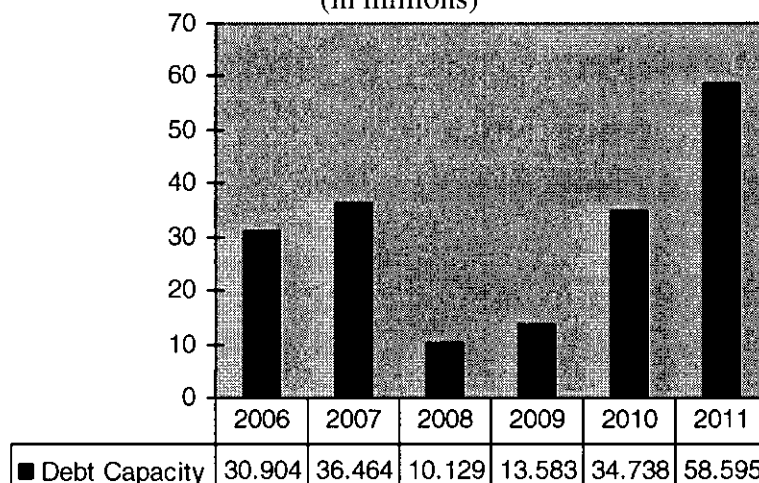


| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Excess Capacity (Shortage) Debt Policies: | -0.191 | 1.935 | 2.089 | 3.338 | 0.418 | 0.812 | 1.482 |
|---|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

- Tax-supported general obligation debt service will not exceed ten per cent of General Fund expenditures
- Net bonded debt will not exceed five per cent of the assessed value of real estate
Net Bonded Debt is general obligation debt for the City and School Board, exclusive of Parking Enterprise Fund debt and the amount available in the Debt Service Fund
- Tax-supported debt will be structured such that not less than 50 per cent of aggregate outstanding debt will be retired within ten years

Note: Ratios that follow include all tax-supported debt – GO bonds, VPSA, Literary Loan, QZAB and Capital Leases

Debt Capacity After Future Planned Debt Issuance
(in millions)



Recommendation:

- Roanoke City Schools assume responsibility for debt service on the additional funding requested
- Use School Capital Maintenance and Equipment Replacement (CMERP) over two years for furniture and equipment-\$1.6 million

The City Manager stated that when the School Board applies for and receives State Literary Loan funds as a source of funding for some of the projects, the school system does not have the legal authority to issue debt on its own, debt is counted toward the total amount of debt incurred by the City as a jurisdiction, and the debt capacity also includes funds that the School system accesses for its capital projects.

Mr. Lindsey inquired as to how the School system's debt service impacts the City's debt limit; whereupon, the City Manager advised that the school district's debt service does not have any impact on the City's debt limit, but the amount of debt that the School system anticipates will have an impact on the City. She pointed out that the original agreement, at the time the Patrick Henry and William Fleming High School projects were envisioned, was that the City would support the debt service for one-half of the debt, the School system through its sources, which were largely City sources, would support the other one-half of the debt; and in 2003-2004, when the Patrick Henry project amount increased significantly, the then School Board and School Administration stated that if the City would agree to increase the amount of bond issuance or debt issuance for the project, they would agree to pay all of the debt service on that additional increment. She explained that the School system is building debt capacity as is the City, and there were occasions in which the School system chose to use some of the debt reserve for operating issues. She stated that the amount in the Debt Service Fund is not critical to the policies, but what is important is that the school system will have its funds available to pay its part when due. She added that she did not know if the School Board has an internal policy related to the amount of debt service that the School's budget should carry, and suggested some discussion under the leadership of School Trustee Bingham and Council Member Fitzpatrick and that the School system may wish to consider developing certain internal policies. She advised that the City allocates a specific amount of funds to the School Board each year, and the School Board decides how the funds are to be allocated within its budget, and the important issue for the City is that when bonds are due, the School Board has the available debt service to fund its share.

The Director of Finance stated that the policy actually looks at the total debt service when taking into consideration the ten per cent limit, just as it does for the total debt issue, which considers all of the outstanding debt; when the City looks at the General Fund, both the City's and the School's General Fund are added together to reach a total General Fund.

The Mayor suggested that the matter be referred to the City Manager and the Director of Finance for discussion with their counterparts in the School administration, with a recommendation to Council and to the School Board on how to proceed in terms of absorbing and addressing the additional \$6.1 million debt.

The City Manager stated while it was specifically addressed in Mr. Lindsey's comments, it was understood from discussing the matter with Mr. Godek that the School's request included the assumption that the City would bear one-half of the cost of the additional debt service. She further stated that by initially looking at the proposal, and the fact that in 2003-2004, when project costs increased, the School Board assumed the additional costs, and it would be the City's preliminary thought that the debt service on the additional amount should be fully absorbed by the School system rather than be shared by the City. She explained that if Council is positive in its response, the City would not only have to cut or delay capital projects, but assume part of the debt service, which would be an additional financial burden on the City's side. She explained that when looking at what has been made available under CMERP for the last several years, including last year when the City provided approximately \$1.5 million to the Schools for CMERP, it is believed that the \$1.5 million was identified out of the \$6.1 million for furniture and equipment and could be funded over two years, which would mean that the debt issuance would be more in the range of \$4.5 million.

Mayor Harris referred to the joint meeting of Council and the School Board scheduled to be held on Monday, August 7, 2006 at 9:00 a.m., and requested that the City Administration and the School Administration discuss the matter and submit their recommendation to the Council and the School Board within 30 days. He stated that if there were additional matters to be discussed at the August 7 joint meeting of the two bodies, they should be forwarded to the respective Clerks for inclusion on the agenda.

At 11:15 a.m., the meeting of the School Board was adjourned.

13TH STREET AND HOLLINS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT:

TRAFFIC: The City Manager introduced Mark Jamison, Traffic Engineer, for a review of the following project:

Hollins Road/13th Street Extension
VDOT Project No. U000-128-113

Typical Section

- Four-lane typical from Orange Avenue to Wise Avenue - 35 mph design speed
surrounding properties are industrial/commercial
four-lane bridge
- Two-lane typical from Wise Avenue to Dale Avenue - 25 mph design speed
surrounding properties are more residential
minimizes impact on neighborhood both visually and from right-of-way acquisition need
- Bike lanes included throughout
- Crossing overhead utilities only placed underground
- Wide medians and sidewalks set back from the curb line to increase landscaping opportunities

Roundabouts vs. Signalized Intersections

- 13th and Tazewell - existing signal proposed to be removed
- 13th and Wise - currently not signalized, projected traffic volumes would meet warrants for a signal
- Signals would require additional lanes and associated larger footprint
- Roundabouts meet traffic needs, provide gateway and aesthetic opportunities, and can better control travel speeds

Left turns will be restricted at certain streets - Campbell Avenue, Kirk Avenue, Church Avenue, and Stewart Avenue

- turn restrictions ensure efficient traffic flow and minimize the number of lanes, especially turn lanes
- these streets extend only a few blocks in either direction
- main arteries into downtown are maintained

Schedule

- Citizen Information Meeting - Wednesday, May 17, 2006, Fallon Park Elementary School, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Public Hearing - Spring 2007
- Right-of-Way acquisition begins - 2007
- Construction advertisement - 2010

Council Member Fitzpatrick suggested that Norfolk Southern be contacted to ensure that the project will not impede potential expansion of FreightCar America and that Valley Metro be contacted with regard to the affect of the “no left turn” on Campbell Avenue. He stated that the roundabout will greatly facilitate traffic movement.

Council Member Dowe addressed the issue of requiring citizens to travel an additional block to reach their destination since there is no left-turn on the roundabout. He suggested that signage be posted to advise cyclists that they must abide by the same traffic patterns; whereupon, Mr. Jamison stated that such issues will need to be addressed, however, cyclists may wish to exit the roundabout and use pedestrian paths.

CENTRAL ROANOKE MOBILITY STUDY:

TRAFFIC: Mark Jamison, Traffic Engineer, advised that the Central Roanoke Mobility Study was the result of an effort to improve access to the Riverside Center for Research and Technology, and with involvement by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), City staff reviewed interchanges above and below Elm Avenue, and the study was later expanded from Orange Avenue to Wonju Street. He reviewed the following information in preparation for a public involvement meeting on July 27, 2006, to be held at the Roanoke Civic Center Exhibit Hall:

Alternative Descriptions:
Revised May 22, 2006

Orange Avenue

Alternative OA-1

Southbound - Eliminate loop ramps and provide at-grade signalized intersection near current loop ramp gores. Add a grade separated exit ramp bridge that swings west of the new intersection, crosses Lick Run and the proposed Greenway, crosses Madison Avenue and parallels Second Street tying in north of Patton Avenue, Second Street remains open to two-way traffic.

Northbound - Eliminate exit loop ramp to westbound Orange Avenue and relocate the westbound Orange Avenue to northbound I-581 entrance ramp to provide free flow, extending the ramp to the north to increase merge length from the eastbound Orange Avenue to northbound I-581 loop ramp. Provide a signalized at-grade three leg intersection to allow left turns westbound onto Orange Avenue with free flow right from the northbound I-581 to eastbound Orange Avenue exit ramp. (Note: The northbound improvements assume the construction of Williamson Road Alternative WR-1)

Alternative OA-2

Southbound - Eliminate loop ramps and provide an at-grade signalized intersection near current loop ramp gores. Keep the southbound entrance ramp low and parallel to Lick Run, tying to I-581 southbound mainline grade just north of the bridge over Walker Avenue. Extend the southbound exit ramp gore to the north to provide a dual lane exit to serve both Orange Avenue and Williamson Road/Wells Avenue traffic. Add a grade-separated exit ramp bridge for Williamson Road/Wells Avenue traffic from just south of Orange Avenue that crosses Orange Avenue, Lick Run (and the proposed Lick Run Greenway) and ties to Second Street north of Patton Avenue. Second Street would remain open to local traffic northbound throughout but southbound traffic would be restricted to ramp traffic between Walker Avenue and Patton Avenue.

Northbound - Eliminate the northbound to westbound 460 loop ramp and the northbound to eastbound 460 exit ramp. Retain the eastbound 460 to northbound 581 loop ramp and reconstruct the westbound 460 to northbound 581 ramp to improve geometry and provide higher speed entry and better alignment. (Note: the northbound improvements assume the construction of Williamson Road Alternative WR-2).

Alternative OA-3

Southbound - Create a partial cloverleaf by retaining the loop ramp in the northwest quadrant and eliminating the loop ramp in the southwest quadrant. Increase the radius of the northwest quadrant loop ramp from westbound 460 to southbound I-581. (Note: This modification will require acquisition of residential and School Administration property. Create a new signalized three-legged intersection on Orange Avenue west of the loop. This option would require closing the Williamson Road Interchange (Alternative WR-4)

Northbound - Create a partial cloverleaf by retaining the eastbound 460 to I-581 northbound entrance loop ramp in the southeast quadrant and eliminating the I-581 northbound to westbound 460 exit loop ramp in the northwest quadrant. Create a new signalized three-legged intersection on Orange Avenue east of the loop. This option would require closing the Williamson Road Interchange (Alternative WR-4).

Alternative OA-4

Construct a tight diamond intersection with at-grade signalized intersections at the general location of the loop ramp gores on Orange Avenue. This requires the elimination of all four loop ramps, but requires minimal work to the I-581 mainline. This option may be compatible with Alternative WR-3 northbound if the Williamson Road interchange is to remain open and is compatible with Alternative WR-4 if the Williamson Road interchange is closed. Insufficient weave area is available between the I-581 southbound entrance ramp from Orange Avenue to the I-581 southbound exit ramp at Williamson Road to allow the exit ramp to retain its current layout.

Alternative OA-5

Construct a single point urban interchange (SPUI) with a signalized intersection on Orange Avenue. This option requires the elimination of all four loop ramps. This option may be compatible with Alternative WR-3 northbound and with WR-1 southbound if the Williamson Road interchange is to remain open and is compatible with Alternative WR-4 if the Williamson Road interchange is closed. Insufficient weave length is available between the I-581 southbound entrance ramp from Orange Avenue and the I-581 southbound exit ramp at Williamson Road to allow the exit ramp to retain its current layout. Also, reconstruction would be required for several thousand feet on both mainline lanes to allow for replacement of the Orange Avenue bridge with a longer span bridge at four foot higher elevation (to accommodate required clearances for signals).

Alternative OA-6

Southbound - Eliminate loop ramps and provide at grade signalized intersection near current loop ramp gores. Add a grade separated exit ramp bridge that swings west of the new intersection, crosses Lick Run and the proposed Greenway, and touches ground in the area of the landscape supply business. From there, the ramp would cross back over Lick Run and tie in parallel to the southbound mainline on a widened bridge over Walker Avenue. From there, the ramp would follow the alignment of the existing Williamson Road and Wells Avenue off ramps (Note: this is compatible with Alternative WR-5).

Northbound - Close the northbound I-581 to westbound 460 Loop Ramp. Create a new signalized three-legged intersection on Orange Avenue east of the existing eastbound 460 to northbound I-581 loop. Provide a continuous auxiliary lane between Kimball Avenue and the existing ramp gore to provide increased weave area versus the short merge and diverge areas existing today. (Note: this option is compatible with Alternative WR-5)

Alternative OA-7

Southbound - Eliminate loop ramps and provide a diverging diamond interchange at Orange Avenue, where traffic travels on the left side rather than the right side through the core area of the interchange. This configuration allows left turning traffic to pass through only one intersection rather than two, improving capacity and efficiency. Add a grade-separated exit ramp bridge for Williamson Road/Wells Avenue traffic from just south of Orange Avenue that crosses Orange Avenue, Lick Run (and the proposed Lick Run Greenway) and crosses back over Lick Run to tie in parallel to the southbound mainline on a widened bridge over Walker Avenue. From there, the ramp would follow the alignment of the existing Williamson Road and Wells Avenue off ramps (Note: this is compatible with Alternative WR-5).

Northbound - Close the northbound I-581 to westbound 460 Loop Ramp. Create a new signalized intersection as part of the diverging diamond configuration described above for the southbound. Provide a continuous auxiliary lane between Kimball Avenue and the existing ramp gore to provide increased weave area versus the short merge and diverge areas existing today. (Note: this option is compatible with Alternative WR-5)

Williamson RoadAlternative WR-1

Southbound - Eliminate the existing southbound I-581 exit ramp to Williamson Road. Construct Orange Avenue (Alternative OA-1) by adding a grade separated exit ramp bridge that swings west of the new intersection, crosses Lick Run and the proposed Greenway, crosses Madison Avenue and follows Second Street tying in north of Patton Avenue. Second Street effectively becomes the one-way southbound ramp between Walker Avenue and Gilmer Avenue. (Note: Vehicular traffic to and from the Roanoke Civic Center would use Madison Avenue.) A new one-way southbound connection would be constructed in the vicinity of the current Wells Avenue ramp between Gilmer Avenue and Wells. The construction of a wall to separate the ramp traffic from the adjacent residential area could minimize impacts of the increased traffic. Since such a wall would make Second Street inaccessible from Gilmer and Patton Avenues, a local road connection linking Gilmer and Patton Avenues may be part of this option. This option also encroaches on the edge of the Gainsboro Historic District. This option would require modifications to the south end of the proposed Lick Run Greenway to provide a safe crossing of this new connection.

Northbound - Eliminate the existing loop ramp. Construct a new at grade entrance ramp between I-581 and the Civic Center parking lot. The south entrance to the Civic Center would be closed. Construct a new exit ramp for Orange Avenue traffic exiting I-581 just north of Kimball Avenue, flaring to the east and crossing Williamson Road on bridge, then running parallel to the west parking lot ring road of the Civic Center. This option requires the elimination of the two pedestrian bridges along Walker Avenue and the widening of the bridge across Walker Avenue. This option is compatible with Orange Avenue Alternate OA-1.

Alternative WR-2

Southbound - Eliminate the existing I-581 southbound exit ramp to Williamson Road. Construct Orange Avenue Option OA-2, adding a grade-separated exit ramp bridge for Williamson Road/Wells Avenue traffic from just south of Orange Avenue that crosses Orange Avenue, Lick Run (and the proposed Lick Run Greenway) and ties to Second Street north of Patton Avenue. The west side of Second Street would become the southbound exit ramp, but northbound traffic would be allowed between Wells Avenue and Walker Street on the north side. A new connection from Second Street to Wells Avenue would be constructed in the vicinity of the current Wells Avenue ramp between Gilmer Avenue and Wells Avenue. This option would require modifications to the south end

of the proposed Lick Run Greenway to provide a safe crossing of this new connection. The construction of a wall to separate the ramp traffic from the adjacent residential area could minimize impacts of the increased traffic. Since such a wall would make Second Street inaccessible from Gilmer and Patton Avenues, a local road connection linking Gilmer and Patton Avenues may be part of this option. This option also encroaches on the edge of the Gainsboro Historic District and would likely require acquisition of two former commercial properties.

Northbound - Close the existing Williamson Road to I-581 northbound loop ramp. Construct a new at-grade entrance ramp between I-581 and the Roanoke Civic Center parking lot. The south entrance to the Roanoke Civic Center would be closed. Construct a new exit ramp for Orange Avenue and Williamson Road traffic exiting just north of Kimball Avenue and crossing through the closed loop ramp to tie parallel and at-grade along northbound Williamson Road near the existing South entrance to the Civic Center. This ramp would replace the northbound I-581 to eastbound and westbound 460 ramps at Orange Avenue and is compatible with Alternative OA-2.

Alternative WR-3

Southbound - Eliminate the existing southbound I-581 exit ramp to Williamson Road. Construct a new ramp exiting north of Orange Avenue that stays west of the new at-grade intersection on Orange Avenue (Alternative OA-1) and crosses and parallels Lick Run and ties at-grade near Madison Avenue, which would be closed and terminated with a cul-de-sac. Second Street would carry two-way traffic between Walker and Wells Avenues and is identical to WR-2 south of Patton Avenue.

Northbound - Eliminate the existing entrance loop ramp from Williamson Road to I-581 northbound. At the current location of 4th Street and Kimball Avenue, close the existing street and create a semi-circular ramp that runs from Kimball Avenue at Fourth Street curving west along Shenandoah Avenue, and curving north to tie in parallel to the existing I-581 northbound lanes at the existing bridge over Kimball Avenue. This bridge would be widened to carry the relocated entry ramp onto the alignment of the existing ramp just north of Williamson Road.

Alternative WR-4

Close both the I-581 southbound exit ramp to Williamson Road/Wells Avenue and the I-581 northbound entrance ramp from Williamson Road. Most of the Williamson Road interchange traffic would be diverted to either the Elm Avenue interchange or the Orange Avenue interchange. This would eliminate the merge problems between the two interchanges and is compatible with Orange Avenue Alternatives OA-4 and OA-5. It could worsen conditions at these interchanges and would decrease the accessibility of the core area of downtown.

Alternative WR-5

Southbound - Eliminate the existing southbound I-581 exit ramp to Williamson Road. Construct Orange Avenue (Alternative OA-1) by adding a grade separated exit ramp bridge that swings west of the new intersection, crosses Lick Run and the proposed Greenway, then swings east back across the Lick Run and crosses Walker Avenue on a widened bridge parallel to the mainline lanes of I-581 southbound. This ramp would then tie into the existing Williamson Road Wells Avenue Exit Ramp. No modification to the existing ramp configuration or operations at Williamson Road or Wells Avenue would be required.

Northbound - Eliminate the existing entrance loop ramp from Williamson Road to I-581 northbound. At the current location of 4th Street and Kimball Avenue, close the existing street and create a semicircular ramp that runs from Kimball at Fourth Street across Shenandoah Avenue (on bridge) curving west parallel to the Norfolk Southern Shops on retained earth structure, curving north back across Shenandoah Avenue, and tying in parallel to the existing I-581 northbound lanes south of the existing bridge over Kimball Avenue. This bridge would be widened to carry the relocated entry ramp onto the alignment of the existing ramp just north of Williamson Road.

Council Member Lea inquired about access to the property which was purchased for the proposed amphitheater on Orange Avenue; whereupon, Mr. Jamison stated that the nearest access to the property is by way of Carver Road, because FHWA restrictions determine how close a private access may be to the terminus of a ramp.

Council Member Dowe inquired if any consideration was given to I-73; whereupon, Mr. Jamison stated that I-581 already exists, however, south of Elm Avenue presents larger implications; geometry of the land through the area is good, and mainline-wise, there are no inadequate curves but there will be an issue if interchange reconstruction becomes large enough to be considered a major issue. He stated that if improvements are primarily on the ground, cross streets and ramps and do not affect the mainline, there is a better chance of having them grandfathered in, with less disruption. He further stated he would request a clarification of FHWA regulations because I-73 presents potential impacts along the corridor, some positive in terms of funding, but some negative in terms of taking away the number of access points.

The City Manager stated that a considerable amount of local traffic uses the interstate to travel throughout the City which compounds the problem when addressing various issues and Federal government requirements because the interstate was not built to accommodate internal traffic, but to provide a means for motorists to move in and out as quickly as possible, therefore, there are competing interests that will have to be addressed, as a community, as the City moves forward.

Council Member Mason inquired about the process for moving forward; whereupon, Mr. Jamison advised that City staff will give further study to those options that are believed to be the most feasible to ensure that all clearance issues have been addressed through sound concepts; a report will be finalized and presented to Council which will act as a guide in connection with taking the next step of prioritizing; i.e., funding source(s), environmental analysis, design concepts to be followed by construction. He stated that the projects could be broken out into stand-alone projects and Council will be receive further briefings before work begins on the final report, and projects could be broken down into alternatives, both short term and long term, all of which could occur within the next three to four months.

The City Manager stated that the significant study of multiple interchanges came about as a result of Roanoke County's concern over Elm Avenue, and VDOT was willing to look at other interchanges because it was possible that improvements to other interchanges could mitigate some of the problems on Elm Avenue and vice versa, but the City would have to prioritize and decide where it could get the best improvement in the quickest fashion and associated costs.

Vice-Mayor Trinkle inquired if any of the proposed improvements will help or harm pedestrian traffic from The Hotel Roanoke to the Civic Center Exhibit Hall; whereupon, Mr. Jamison stated that some of the options would create additional crossing issues, OA-1 and OA-2 would be places where the traffic would require an additional crossover, and the first part of the Lick Run Greenway could be rebuilt on the opposite side.

Council Member Fitzpatrick inquired as to when funds might be available for construction of the highway projects, whereupon, it was advised that there are certain lower end improvements that could be done to provide numerous benefits without being considered to be full blown projects, but providing sufficient funds to build a new single point at Orange Avenue will be many years into the future because interstate money will most likely be used for the I-81 project before the I-73 project.

At 12:15 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess until 12:45 p.m., at which time the Council will convene in closed session in the Council's Conference Room, Room 451, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building.

At 1:52 p.m., the Council meeting reconvened in the City Council Chamber, with all Members of the Council in attendance, with the exception of Council Member Wishneff, Mayor Harris presiding.

COUNCIL: With respect to the Closed Meeting just concluded, Council Member Fitzpatrick moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in any motion by which any Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Trinkle and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None -----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION: The Mayor advised that the term of office of Kathleen W. Lunsford as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission expired on June 30, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Council Member Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of Kathleen W. Lunsford.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Lunsford was reappointed as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission for a term ending June 30, 2009, by the following vote:

FOR MS. LUNSFORD: Council Members Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris-----6.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-ROANOKE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP: The Mayor advised that the term of office of Clarice E. Walker as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates expired on June 30, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Council Member Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of Clarice E. Walker.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Walker was reappointed as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates for a term ending June 30, 2009, by the following vote:

FOR MS. WALKER: Council Members Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris-----6.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-YOUTH: The Mayor advised that the term of office of Earnestine Garrison as a member of the Youth Services Citizen Board expired on May 31, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Council Member Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of Earnestine Garrison.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Garrison was reappointed as a member of the Youth Services Citizen Board for a term ending May 31, 2009, by the following vote:

FOR MS. GARRISON: Council Members Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris -----6.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

CITY COUNCIL-COMMITTEES: The Mayor announced the following City Council committee assignments, effective July 1, 2006:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Sherman P. Lea | Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Committee Chair - Audit Committee Member - Roanoke Valley Allegheny Regional Commission to fill the unexpired term of M. Rupert Cutler, ending June 30, 2008. |
| Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr. | City Representative - Virginia's First Coalition of Cities Council's liaison - Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority Virginia Municipal League - Transportation Policy Committee Chair - Legislative Committee City Representative - Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority to fill the unexpired term of Brian J. Wishneff, ending June 30, 2008 City Representative - New River Valley Commerce Park Participation Committee |
| Alfred T. Dowe, Jr. | Chair - Personnel Committee Vice Chair - Legislative Committee |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Gwen W. Mason | Council liaison – Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities Virginia Municipal League – Environmental Quality Policy Committee Vice Chair – Personnel Committee |
| David B. Trinkle | Roanoke Valley Allegheny Regional Commission for a term ending June 30, 2009 Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to fill the unexpired term of M. Rupert Cutler, ending June 30, 2008 Vice Chair – Audit Committee |

At 1:57 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess until 2:00 p.m., in the City Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia.

The Council of the City of Roanoke held its Organizational Meeting on Monday, July 3, 2006, at 2:00 p.m., in the City Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding, pursuant to Section 10 Meetings of Council, Charter of the City of Roanoke, at which time the newly elected Members of the Council officially took their seats.

PRESENT: Council Members Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, Gwen W. Mason, David B. Trinkle and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----6.

ABSENT: Council Member Brian J. Wishneff -----1.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The invocation was delivered by Council Member Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Harris.

COUNCIL: The Mayor advised that the purpose of the Organizational Meeting is for the newly elected Members of City Council to officially take their seats; whereupon, he called attention to a communication from the City Clerk advising of the following qualifications:

David B. Trinkle as a Member of Council for a term commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2010; and as Vice-Mayor for a term commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2008;

Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., as a Member of Council for a term commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2010; and

Gwendolyn W. Mason as a Member of Council for a term commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2010.

Without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that the communication from the City Clerk will be received and filed.

COUNCIL: Council Member Fitzpatrick offered the following resolution recognizing the Honorable David B. Trinkle as a Member of Council and as Vice-Mayor of the City of Roanoke:

(#37465-070306) A RESOLUTION recognizing the Honorable David B. Trinkle to be a Member of the City Council and Vice-Mayor of the City of Roanoke.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 70, page 418.)

Council Member Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37465-070306. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

COUNCIL: Council Member Dowe offered the following resolution recognizing the service of the Honorable Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., as Vice-Mayor of the City of Roanoke from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2006.

(#37466-070306) A RESOLUTION paying tribute to the Honorable Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., and expressing to him the appreciation of the City and its people for his exemplary public service as the Vice-Mayor of the City.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 70, page 419.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37466-070306. The motion was seconded by Council Member Mason and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Dowe, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris----5.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.) (Council Member Fitzpatrick abstained from voting.)

COUNCIL: Council Member Fitzpatrick offered the following resolution establishing a meeting schedule for City Council for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2007:

(#37467-070306) A RESOLUTION establishing a meeting schedule for City Council for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2006, and terminating June 30, 2007.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 70, page 421.)

Council Member Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37467-070306. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Trinkle and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

The regular meeting of Roanoke City Council convened at 2:14 p.m., on Monday, July 3, 2006, in the City Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with the following Council Members in attendance, Mayor Harris presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, Gwen W. Mason, David B. Trinkle and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----6.

ABSENT: Council Member Brian J. Wishneff -----1.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NONE.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor advised that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine by the Members of Council and would be enacted by one motion in the form, or forms, listed on the Consent Agenda, and if discussion was desired, the item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

PURCHASE/SALE OF PROPERTY: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council schedule a public hearing for Monday, July 17, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, with regard to the purchase of an 11.067-acre parcel of City-owned land located at the intersection of Orange Avenue and Blue Hills Drive, N. E., by Blue Hills Village, LLC, was before the body.

It was advised that a prospective buyer has submitted a plan for proposed commercial development of the property which provides for retail, restaurant, hotel, office, daycare, and other commercial uses; and the City desires to sell the property for \$150,000.00, per acre, subject to the buyer developing the property as shown on the concept plan.

It was further advised that the concept plan proposes development which is consistent with *Vision 2001-2020* and the *Hollins/Wildwood Area Plan*; commercial development on the site at the entrance to RCIT will complement industrial development by providing accessible goods and services near the major employment center; the proposed development is consistent with the current zoning of the property, which is CG, Commercial-General District (conditional); a public hearing is required to consider the sale of the property and consider the Deed of Release to release the property from the restrictive covenants of the RCIT. The restrictive covenants were designed to guide the development of large-scale industrial sites and do not accommodate the type of commercial development being considered for the property; and staff is working with the land owners in RCIT to obtain their consent to remove the property from the covenants.

The City Manager recommended that the Council authorize the scheduling of a public hearing on July 17, 2006, to consider the sale of the above property and to authorize the City Manager to execute a Deed of Release to release the subject property from the restrictive covenants of the RCIT, once the items needed for such release are obtained.

Council Member Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lea and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

PURCHASE/SALE OF PROPERTY: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council schedule a public hearing for Monday, July 17, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, with regard to the purchase of City-owned land located on Nelms Lane, N. E., Official Tax No. 7390713, by L & L Development Corporation, was before the body.

Council Member Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lea and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

TAXES: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council schedule a public hearing for Monday, July 17, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on a request of Western Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc., a non-profit organization, for tax exempt status of certain real property located at 1944 Peters Creek Road, N. W., was before the body.

Council Member Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lea and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES- ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION-COURT COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD-SCHOOLS-ROANOKE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP-TOWING ADVISORY BOARD: A report of qualification of the following persons, was before Council:

Jason E. Bingham, Todd A. Putney, and Mae G. Huff as Trustees of the Roanoke City School Board, for terms commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2009;

Bobby R. Caudle for a term ending June 30, 2009, and Brian G. Gibson to fill the unexpired term of Carol Jenson, resigned, ending June 30, 2007, as members of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates;

Dennis R. Cronk as a member of the Virginia Western Community College Board of Directors, for a term ending June 30, 2010;

Charles E. Jordan as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission, for a term ending June 30, 2009;

Thomas W. Ruff as a member of the Towing Advisory Board, for a term ending June 20, 2009; and

Clifford R. Weckstein as a member of the Court Community Corrections Program Regional Community Criminal Justice Board, for a term ending June 30, 2009.

Council Member Fitzpatrick moved that the report of qualification be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lea and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

ARMORY/STADIUM-CITY PROPERTY: A joint communication from Mayor C. Nelson Harris and Vice-Mayor David B. Trinkle advising that development of the location formerly home to Victory Stadium and the surrounding vicinity is vitally important to the progress of the City of Roanoke; conceptual plans supported by City Council are in place to develop temporary multi-use athletic facilities at the location; the fields can be utilized by the community in the fall of 2007; and the proposed field location within the framework of River's Edge Sports Complex also creates synergy that is essential for hosting large tournaments, which have enormous economic impact on the community and region, was before the body.

It was further advised that to have more meaningful understanding of the project, it is important to note that development of the proposed multi-use fields will be accomplished to provide short term relief from the current over use problem experienced with the City's current fields, and with nominal investment; while plans are initiated to bring the fields online, a master plan should be developed to prepare long-term use strategies for the site bounded by the Roanoke River, Reserve Avenue, the Jefferson Street Bridge, and the Franklin Road Bridge; the master planning process should take into consideration other potential amenities that the community may wish to include at the site, such as river access, the greenway system, park facilities (restrooms, locker areas, concession points, etc.), a memorial, a music venue/amphitheater, and urban festival possibilities; with discussions currently taking place regarding a possible public amphitheatre on the site, a master planning process aligned with the fall 2006 completion deadline for the Amphitheatre Feasibility Study is most appropriate; and the master planning process and, more importantly, the ultimate implementation of the plan should also consider the eventual elimination of existing buildings located at the site, as well as other important master planning considerations (parking, storm water and environmental compliance, irrigation, spectator seating, project costing, etc.), all the while maintaining an efficient, environmentally sound, and effective development.

With the above considerations in mind, Mayor Harris and Vice-Mayor Trinkle suggested that Council initiate the following actions:

- (1)Formally request that the Roanoke School Board initiate plans to move its maintenance activity off the site and advise the City Manager of a possible timetable for that to occur;
- (2)Formally request of and work with the State delegation and officials to offer any assistance to expedite plans to move the National Guard Armory activity off the site;
- (3)Request that the City Manager provide City Council with information relative to moving the Parks and Recreation Administration activities off the site;
- (4)Request that the City Manager initiate a master plan process for the site to be completed in a timely manner following receipt of the Amphitheater Feasibility Study; and
- (5)Request that City Council commit that the site remain in public use as a guiding principle of the master planning process.

It was noted that the intent of that correspondence is to remind all Members of Council and the public of the significance of this effort and the many positive impacts that it can engender for the community, and to formally launch the master planning process.

Council Member Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the joint communication from the Mayor and the Vice-Mayor. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe.

The Mayor clarified that the communication launches, in an official way, the master planning process for the property in its entirety.

Council Member Lea inquired about the status of the amphitheater study; whereupon, the City Manager advised that the commissioned amphitheater study seeks to determine whether or not there is sufficient demand within the Roanoke Valley to support the development or establishment of an amphitheater. Secondly, she stated that if it is found that the demand exists, the consultant was instructed to determine the most logical place to site an amphitheater, not on a site specific basis, but in a general location. She explained that there are no early indications by the consultant and City staff has deliberately tried to not prejudge the work of the consultant; the consultant has the benefit of previous studies conducted by the City; and Roanoke County was invited to participate in the study since study results may suggest a location(s) different from those that have been considered within the City, and it is believed that it should be a regional amphitheater as opposed to a City facility.

Mr. Jim R. Fields, 17 Ridgcrest Road, Hardy, Virginia, advised that when Victory Stadium was demolished, the City tore down one of its greatest landmarks, and eliminated a venue for high school and college football games as well as tournament playoff games. He suggested construction of a memorial near the bridge using bricks from Victory Stadium and that ticket booths from the Stadium be placed at both the Patrick Henry High School Stadium and at the William Fleming High School Stadium. He also asked that the magnolia trees in the vicinity of Victory Stadium be retained.

There being no further discussion, the motion was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

Y. M. C. A.: F. Calvin Johnson, Executive Director, YMCA of the Roanoke Valley, presented an update on the Kirk Family YMCA: He advised that:

- The YMCA of Roanoke Valley was established in 1883, and consists of four components: Kirk Family YMCA, Family Center YMCA, Salem Family YMCA, and YMCA Magic Place, which is a daily before and after school child care program for over 600 children.
- YMCA membership has increased from 6500 members and participants in 2004 to a membership of approximately 17, 000 since the opening of the two new facilities less than two years ago.
- A successful \$10.7 million capital campaign was completed in 2003 and represented the largest capital campaign in the history of the Roanoke Valley.
- Part of the success of the capital campaign involved an investment by the City of Roanoke of \$2 million, the City also donated the former Jefferson Gymnasium to the YMCA, and, in exchange, the YMCA gave the City the former Central YMCA property.
- A creative use has been made of the Jefferson Gym which houses two new pools, and 30,000 square feet of space was added.
- The new facility was opened in September 2004 and includes two indoor swimming pools, a gymnasium, cardio and strength training areas, indoor track, a teen room, exercise studios, and locker rooms for all ages and all family sizes.
- The Kirk Family YMCA has had a direct result in the revitalization of the western end of downtown Roanoke due to its proximity to the Jefferson Center and other downtown living activities on Campbell and Church Avenues.

- Location of the YMCA at the west end of downtown will have a lasting impact on quality of life and economic development by attracting people to live in the area.
- The YMCA of Roanoke Valley is home to over 8,000 members, approximately 5,200 of whom are Roanoke City residents; 30 per cent of members are under age 18, 75 per cent are family members, and over 1,000 people use the Kirk YMCA facilities on a daily basis.
- Accessibility is a key factor and one can reach the Kirk Family YMCA from any location in the City of Roanoke within 15 minutes, bus service is available, and there is ample room for vehicular parking.
- Roanoke City residents receive a 50 per cent reduction in membership fee.
- No person is turned away due to an inability to pay the membership fee, and last year the YMCA provided approximately \$128,000.00 in need based scholarships.
- 1,100 children participated in the swimming program last year, 65 youth now swim year round on the YMCA Sea Lion Swim Team; and 20 arthritis and water exercise classes are conducted for over 250 adults on a weekly basis.
- Approximately 500 people exercise in the wellness center each day.
- Youth initiatives include the provision of affordable, convenient and quality before and after school care to elementary and middle school children through the Magic Place Program; and programs are offered for youth that are designed to encourage healthy lifestyles.
- The YMCA collaborates with other persons and organizations within the community, specifically the City of Roanoke Parks and Recreation Department.
- The Addison 21st Century Learning Program, which is an after school program for students attending Addison Middle School, is held at the YMCA several times a week.

- Children from the West End Center attend programs at the YMCA and displaced and homeless persons from the Roanoke City Rescue Mission work out daily at the facility.

In closing, Mr. Johnson expressed appreciation to the City of Roanoke for participating in a public/private partnership which led to creation of the Kirk Family YMCA. He stated that the YMCA is not just a place to work out, but a place where people come to grow in spirit, mind and body on a daily basis.

Council Member Dowe congratulated the YMCA for maintaining a sensitivity to what is going on in the immediate area of each community in which they serve.

Council Member Fitzpatrick advised that the YMCA is an example of regionalism, but more importantly the YMCA continues to address the needs of the people that it serves.

Council Member Lea commended Mr. Johnson on exhibiting quality leadership and the level of friendliness and professionalism of staff.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS: NONE.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

BUDGET-HUMAN DEVELOPMENT-GRANTS-FDETC: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the City of Roanoke is the grant recipient for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding, thus, City Council must appropriate funding for all grants and other monies received in order for the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board to administer WIA programs; the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board administers the Federally funded Workforce Investment Act (WIA) for Area 3, which encompasses the Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke, and the Cities of Covington, Roanoke, and Salem; and WIA funding is intended for four primary client populations:

- Dislocated workers who have been laid off from employment through no fault of their own;
- Economically disadvantaged individuals as determined by household income guidelines defined by the U. S. Department of Labor;

- Youth who are economically disadvantaged, or have other barriers to becoming successfully employed adults; and
- Businesses in need of employment and job training services.

It was further advised that the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board has received a Notice of Obligation (NOO), from the Virginia Employment Commission, allocating \$311,046.00 for the Youth Program which serves economically disadvantaged youth for Program Year 2006 (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2008); and ten per cent of the abovementioned totals are to be allocated to the administrative function of the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to accept Western Virginia Workforce Development Board Workforce Investment Act funding of \$311,046.00 for Program Year 2006 and appropriate the funds to accounts to be established in the Grant Fund by the Director of Finance and establish corresponding revenue estimates in the Grant Fund.

Council Member Fitzpatrick offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37468-070306) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding for the FY07 Workforce Investment Act Grant, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2006-2007 Grant Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, page 423.)

Council Member Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37468-070306. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

Council Member Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#37469-070306) A RESOLUTION accepting the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board Workforce Investment Act funding of \$311,046 and authorizing the City Manager to execute the requisite documents necessary to accept the funding.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 70, page 425.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37469-070306. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, Mason, Trinkle and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE:

AUDITS/FINANCIAL REPORTS: The Director of Finance submitted the Financial Report for the month of May, 2006.

(For full text, see Financial Report on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

There being no questions or comments by Council, the Mayor advised that the Financial Report for the month of May, 2006 would be received and filed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: NONE.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: NONE.

MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

INQUIRIES AND/OR COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-SPORTS ACTIVITIES: Council Member Dowe commended the accomplishments of J. J. Redick, former Duke University guard and Cave Spring High School basketball player, who was named the 11th overall pick by the Orlando Magic in the NBA Draft.

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard and matters requiring referral to the City Manager will be referred immediately for response, recommendation or report to Council.

COMPLAINTS: Alexx Bell, President and Chief Executive Officer, Jaybell Developments, Inc., a commercial developer, advised that Roanoke's children are leaving the area upon graduation from high school or college due to a lack of various types of opportunities in the area. He stated that Roanoke's youth must be prepared for the future and through construction of a subway system which will change the City's infrastructure, lessen the dependency on fossil fuel, and encourage persons to ride the bus or the subway to work, as opposed to driving personal vehicles. He spoke in support of a monorail system between downtown and the Roanoke Regional Airport, as well as the expansion of gates at the Airport. He asked that Council adopt a vision for Roanoke that will encourage young people to stay in the Roanoke Valley.

COMPLAINTS: Ms. Evelyn D. Bethel, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., advised that the former majority of City Council left an unsatisfactory legacy, one of hurry waste and destroy by tearing down Victory Stadium. She added that the Council hastened to destroy Roanoke's black culture and neighborhoods by constructing the Social Security Administration Office building on Henry Street which showed a lack of respect for black culture and residents of the community.

COUNTRYSIDE GOLF COURSE: Ms. Valerie Garner, 2264 Mattaponi Drive, N. W., concurred in the remarks of Ms. Patricia D. Baker, 3109 Kershaw Road, N. W., which were presented at the City Council meeting on Monday, June 19, 2006, with regard to turning the Countryside Golf Course into a municipal golf course. She stated that although Ms. Baker does not live in the Countryside area, she believes that a golf course is the most advantageous vision for the property that will benefit not only the over 100 residents surrounding the golf course, but the population of the entire northwest Roanoke area who support the reservation of the green space as a respite away from the urban city. She stated that the intent of the City administration is to bring to the community the urban City environment that current residents tried to escape when they

purchased their homes at Countryside. She asked that the City give the same attention and interest to Countryside that has been given to the Reserve Avenue property and commission a feasibility study to be conducted by a golf consultant to assist in the continued use of the property as a golf course, and that a public hearing be conducted on the findings of the consultant. She requested that the feasibility study include refurbishing the swimming pool for a municipal swimming pool and refinishing the structure that houses the tennis court. She advised that the Countryside issue has been compared to the Colonial Green project, but Colonial Green was an unused field where nothing was taken away from the surrounding community, compared to development of Countryside which will destroy the natural beauty and recreational space that drew residents to the area and is frequented by out of town visitors who stay at hotels surrounding the airport.

ARMORY/STADIUM-COUNCIL: Mr. Bob Caudle, 4231 Belford Street, S. W., expressed appreciation to the Members of Council for their willingness to serve the citizens of Roanoke. He complimented the Mayor on the manner in which he has handled sensitive issues in the past. He called attention to past efforts with regard to Valley-wide cooperation and stated that he looks forward to a day in the future when Roanoke is referred to as Roanoke Valley, Virginia. He asked that the Victory Stadium site be used for a purpose that will unite the citizens of the City of Roanoke. He also asked that Council continue to support Roanoke's neighborhoods which are the life blood of the community.

COMPLAINTS-ARMORY/STADIUM-SCHOOLS: Ms. Helen E. Davis, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., advised she has a heavy heart with regard to the process that destroyed Victory Stadium. She stated that neighborhoods are divided, citizens are upset, Roanoke's children have no place to play high school football and the citizens have no place to hold special events such as the July 4th annual celebration. She expressed concern with regard to Council's vote on June 19, 2006, which over ruled the recommendation of the City Planning Commission and closed streets in the Henry Street area to enable the construction of the Social Security Administration office building.

ARMORY/STADIUM: Mr. Jim Fields, 17 Ridgecrest Road, Hardy, Virginia, advised that since tomorrow is the fourth of July, he appeared before Council in remembrance of Victory Stadium and what the facility meant to the citizens of Roanoke.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

CELEBRATIONS-PARKS AND RECREATION: The City Manager advised that the City's annual July 4th celebration will be held at River's Edge Sports Complex.

ARMORY/STADIUM-TREES: The City Manager stated that some citizens have expressed concern with regard to the fate of the magnolia trees on Reserve Avenue in the vicinity of the National Guard Armory and advised that the City has no plans to disturb the trees.

ARMORY/STADIUM: The City Manager advised that the City of Roanoke will make Victory Stadium bricks available to City residents in the parking lot of the Stadium on Saturday, July 8, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and on Thursday, July 13 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., rain or shine, and residents will be limited to four bricks per car. She further advised that at the end of the 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. distribution time on Thursday, non-residents will be permitted to receive any remaining bricks from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at four bricks per car.

COUNCIL: The City Manager welcomed Council Member Mason and Vice-Mayor Trinkle and advised that City staff looks forward to working under the leadership of the entire Council.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the Council meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:

Mary F. Parker
City Clerk

C. Nelson Harris
Mayor
